

**Senate Bill No. 80**

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Passed the Senate     August 12, 1997

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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Passed the Assembly     August 11, 1997

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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This bill was received by the Governor this \_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997, at \_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_M.

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*Private Secretary of the Governor*

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

An act to amend Sections 4836 and 4840 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to veterinary medicine.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 80, Kopp. Veterinary medicine: euthanasia.

Existing law regulates the licensure of veterinarians and the practice of veterinary medicine, defines the practice of veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry, and prohibits any person from practicing veterinary medicine or any branch thereof without being licensed. These provisions are administered by the Veterinary Medical Board. Existing law approves registered veterinary technicians to perform those animal health care services prescribed by law under the supervision of a veterinarian licensed or authorized to practice in this state and authorizes them to perform animal health care services on those animals impounded by a state, county, city, or city and county agency pursuant to the direct order, written order or telephonic order of a veterinarian licensed or authorized to practice in this state.

Existing law provides that the laws relating to the regulation of veterinary medicine do not prohibit a person from administering sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia of sick, injured, homeless, or unwanted domestic pets or animals, without the presence of a veterinarian, when the person is an employee of an animal control shelter and its agencies or humane society and has received proper training in the administration of sodium pentobarbital for those purposes.

This bill would authorize, for purposes of the latter provision, a registered veterinary technician to apply for registration from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration that authorizes the direct purchase of sodium pentobarbital for the performance of euthanasia without the supervision or authorization of a licensed veterinarian. The bill would authorize the board to adopt



regulations, as needed, to define this provision, including, but not limited to, procedures for citations and fines.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 4836 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4836. (a) The board shall adopt regulations establishing animal health care tasks and an appropriate degree of supervision required for those tasks that may be performed only by a registered veterinary technician or a licensed veterinarian.

(b) The board also may adopt regulations establishing animal health care tasks that may be performed by an unregistered assistant as well as by a registered veterinary technician or a licensed veterinarian. The board shall establish an appropriate degree of supervision by a registered veterinary technician or a licensed veterinarian over an unregistered assistant for any tasks established under this subdivision and the degree of supervision for any of those tasks shall be higher than, or equal to, the degree of supervision required when a registered veterinary technician performs the task.

(c) The board may adopt regulations, as needed, to define subdivision (c) of Section 4840, including, but not limited to, procedures for citations and fines, in accordance with Section 125.9.

SEC. 2. Section 4840 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4840. (a) Registered veterinary technicians and unregistered assistants are approved to perform those animal health care services prescribed by law under the supervision of a veterinarian licensed or authorized to practice in this state.

(b) Registered veterinary technicians may perform animal health care services on those animals impounded by a state, county, city, or city and county agency pursuant to the direct order, written order or telephonic order of a veterinarian licensed or authorized to practice in this state.



(c) Registered veterinary technicians may apply for registration from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration that authorizes the direct purchase of sodium pentobarbital for the performance of euthanasia as provided for in of subdivision (d) of Section 4827 without the supervision or authorization of a licensed veterinarian.



Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 1997

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*Governor*

